

Message Text

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USINFO FOR PGM/PP

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

1. LOCAL MEDIA IS GIVING PROMINENT COVERAGE TO WIRE SERVICES
REPORTS ON FORTHCOMING CAMP DAVID SUMMIT.

2. "THE RISING NEPAL," "GORKHAPATRA" (VERNACULAR), BOTH SEMI-
OFFICIAL DAILIES AND THE "MOTHERLAND," AND INFLUENTIAL DAILY,
EDITORIALLY HAVE WELCOMED THE U.S. INITIATIVE, BUT WARNED THAT
THIS COULD BE THE "LAST CHANCE" FOR A PEACE INITIATIVE AND
INDICATE THE "BALL IS NOW IN ISRAEL'S COURT." THE EDITORIALS
CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE GON'S GROWING PRO-ARAB STANCE. EDITORIAL
EXCERPTS FOLLOWS:

3. "THE RISING NEPAL" - "...HIS (SADAT) DECISION NOW CAN BE
INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT HE HAS RECEIVED SOME INDICATION.
PERHAPS THROUGH THE UNITED STATES WHICH HAD BEEN TRYING TO
BRING EGYPT AND ISRAEL FACE TO FACE AT A NEGOTIATING TABLE,
THAT ISRAEL WAS NOW PREPARED TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE AND ACCOMMO-
DATING... THE CRUCIAL FACTOR CONTINUES TO REMAIN THE ATTITUDE OF
ISRAEL WHICH WILL HAVE TO MAKE NECESSARY CONCESSIONS IF THE PEACE
BID IS TO SUCCEED...IT COULD WELL BE THAT THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT
NEXT MONTH COULD BE LAST CHANCE TO BRING ABOUT PEACE IN THE
STRIFETORN MIDDLE EAST AND THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL
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ALSO BE IN IT DOES PROVIDE A GLIMMER OF HOPE AS THE US SHOULD BE
IN A POSITION TO INFLUENCE TO SOME EXTENT, ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE. IN
ANY CASE, THE BALL IS IN ISRAEL'S COURT NOW AND THE OUTCOME OF
THE TALKS, AND INDEED THE VERY FUTURE OF THE MIDDLE EAST DEPENDS
ON HOW ISRAEL PLAYS HER CARDS KEEPING IN VIEW THE LARGER
INTERESTS OF THE REGION."

4. "GORKHAPATRA" - "...ON THE HEELS OF THE FAILURE OF THE LEEDS MEETING, CARTER'S EFFORTS FOR A SUMMIT AT CAMP DAVID BETWEEN EGYPT, ISRAEL AND USA, IS A WELCOME MOVE...U.S. EFFORTS TO BRING THE TWO WARRING PARTIES ON DIRECT TALKING TERMS MUST BE CONSIDERED A VERY POSITIVE STEP. THIS SITUATION COULD ONLY COME ABOUT AFTER EGYPT FORCED ITSELF AWAY FROM SOVIET INFLUENCE AND BEGAN TO WORK FOR PEACE MORE CLOSELY WITH THE USA...PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRESENT INITIATIVE TOWARDS BRINGING EGYPT AND ISRAEL TOGETHER FOR THIS CRUCIAL SUMMIT MUST BE CONSIDERED A MAJOR AND FARSIGHTED STEP..."

5. "MOTHERLAND" - "THE COMING SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF THE UNITED STATES, ISRAEL AND EGYPT IS BEING BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE REALIZATION THAT THE EXISTING STATUS QUO IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS IS DIRECTLY PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF UNWANTED ELEMENTS AND ILL WILL...ANY EFFORT FOR PEACE ANYWHERE IS UNRESERVEDLY WELCOME...THE ISSUE CALLS FOR PRACTICAL FORESIGHT, BUT PRIORITIES HAVE BEEN WRONGLY MISPLACED. IT IS TIME TO SHED STAGECRAFT IDIOSYNCRASY FOR ONCE AND ADDRESS THE ISSUE IN A MORE DOWN-TO-EARTH BASIS...THE PERILS, WE HOPE, ARE ADEQUATELY REALIZED AND THAT THE PEACE INITIATIVE OF PRESIDENT SADAT WILL NOT GO TO WASTE."
STANLEY

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